

REMARKSAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended by rewriting claims 1, 12, 23, 25 and 26, claims 2-11, 13- 22 and 24 are unchanged. Claims 1 to 26 remain in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 25, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

Claims 25 and 26, have been amended to relate to a claim requesting machine and therefore the rejection regarding lack of antecedent basis no longer applies to these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 to 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over smith et al (U.S. Publication No. 20020083008A1) in view of Ahmad (U.S. Patent No.5,925,127).

Claims 1, 12, 23 have been amended to facilitate the prosecution of the application without prejudice or disclaimer. The invention as claimed by applicant provides for obtaining and validating and identifier as unique within an ad-hoc network of machines, the identifier being is associated with an application for execution on one or more of the machines. In amended claim 1, the identifier is obtained automatically from a shared resource pool of the network and the identifier is validated as unique to the application if an invalidation message is not received within a predefined time period.

In contrast to the present invention, *smith et al* describes obtaining an identifier "manually" as clearly recited in the abstract "The user inputs the unique identifier into the system at the start of an e-transaction....". Also, at paragraph 23 *smith et al* states "...the user over link 25 provides identification information....". Clearly, the purpose and teachings of *smith et al* are not related to, nor does *smith et al* refer to, obtaining automatically an identifier from a shared resource pool. Such a shared resource pool, as stated on page 7 of applicant's specification can be "a number for a machine network address, a random number seed unique to one of the machines, a session identifier, a multicast address" etc. Nowhere in *smith et al* is obtaining automatically an identifier from a shared resource pool mentioned.

The identifier in the citation *smith et al* is obtained from a user (e.g. by keying in a PIN or personal data). Notwithstanding this point, the examiner has concluded that the "specified period of time" mentioned at column 8 of *Ahmad* when combined with *smith et al* results in applicant's claim 1 being obvious. We respectfully disagree with the Examiner. The specified period of time mentioned in *Ahmad* is a period for which a user requests use of a particular program for a specified period of time (column 8 lines 59 to 60). Hence, even if all other integers of claim 1, except reference to the predefined time period, could be shown to be described by *smith et al*, the combination of *smith et al* and *Ahmad* would not result in the invention as claimed in this application. The combined teachings of *smith et al* and *Ahmad*, at best would result in an application being useable for a user specified time period and not validating the identifier as unique to the application if an invalidation message is not received within a predefined time period.

As to independent claims 12 and 23, the above remarks also apply.

As to claims 2, 13 and 24; claims 3-4, 14-15 and 25-26; and claims 5, 16 it is submitted that since these claims depend from one of the above mentioned independent claims then these claims should be allowed.

As to claims 6 and 17, again these dependent claims depend respectively from independent claims 1 and 12 (including intervening claims), and are allowable. Notwithstanding this point, the pre-defined time period of *Ahmad* at column 10 lines 14-34 refers to "the period of time over which the program module 100 may be usedthe period of time over which use of the program module is allowed". This is not the same as validating an identifier as unique for a pre-defined time period as claimed in claims 6 and 17.

As to claims 7,11,18,22; claims 8, 19; claims 9, 20; and claims 10, 21 , it is submitted that since these claims depend from one of the above mentioned independent claims then these claims should be allowed.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

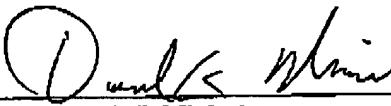
Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 502117.

Respectfully submitted,

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